

MEMORANDUM

488-64

For Pickering & Company, Inc.  
Shure Bros. Litigation

From DHK

6/9/65

On Monday evening, June 7, 1965, Haynes Johnson, Paul Barrett and I met with Johan van Leer at the Union League Club. We had a few drinks and dinner and then went to my room to review his background and the pertinent facts. The pertinent facts are as follows:

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Johan van Leer was born on the Island of Java of Dutch parentage on July 7, 1927. He had his early education through junior high school and two years at the Lyceum in Surabaya, Java. At the time of the Japanese invasion, his education was interrupted and he spent three years in a civilian Japanese prison camp. After the war, he went with his family to Delft, Holland and spent three years at the Lyceum in that city where he studied mathematics, mechanics, physics, chemistry, etc. After graduation, he went to work at the Philips Glowing Lamps Factories in Eindhoven, Holland where he worked on crystal and magnetic pickups. He left Philips in the latter part of 1954 allegedly because they were not interested in the exploitation of his magnetic pickup. He came to Holyoke, Mass. and lived with relatives while he sought employment with a company that could utilize his experience in the pickup field. Among others, he contacted Shure Bros. and Fischer Radio Corporation, Electro Sonic Laboratories, Electro-Voice, Fairchild Recording Equipment Company and Pickering & Company, Inc. From Pickering & Company, Inc., he received a letter dated November 23, 1954 signed by F. C. Powell expressing a lack of interest in a person with his experience and qualifications.

DEVELOPMENT OF ROTARY MOVING MAGNET PICKUP

While employed by Philips, he developed a rotary moving magnet type of pickup. He prepared a rather complete patent disclosure in the usual Philips form bearing No. R 58 and also the No. 2950 and the dates 2/10/53 and 5/10/53 and also 17/10/53 (Under the European system, the date of the month is first, the month is second and the year last so that all of these dates are in October of 1953.)

## MEMORANDUM

For

From

-2-

The disclosure consists of three pages of typewritten descriptive matter and two pages of drawings containing ten figures. The disclosure is very similar to the pickup in the Bauer rotary moving magnet patent. Thus, there is an upper and lower rubber bearing which supports a permanent magnet which is transversely magnetized so that it can have relative rotary movement. A stylus is supported on an arm at the lower end of the magnet. The disclosure specifically states that the bushings are to provide the restoring force. In most forms, the magnet is circular in cross-section. However, in Fig. 4 a magnet which is square in cross-section is disclosed. It is interesting to note that the magnet is stated to be made of ferrite which is scintered ceramiclike material. He found this material to be of relatively low mass and to have very high coercive force. A number of models of the pickup were made and played in Holland. He brought at least one model to this country which was played in this country and he also brought a number of unassembled parts or components for the pickup.

### RELATIONSHIP WITH B. B. BAUER AND SHURE BROTHERS

On December 29, 1954, Mr. van Leer wrote a letter to Mr. B. B. Bauer of Shure Brothers applying for a position. In this letter he said his work involved "research on crystal and magnetic pickups." He also stated, "The last year of my employment was devoted to my invention of a revolutionary magnetic pickup system." Shure Brothers immediately showed interest and in the reply to this letter dated January 5, 1955 re: R. C. Parowski, Personnel Manager, specifically inquired about this pickup. The correspondence led to an interview in Chicago and finally to employment.

Mr. van Leer advised us that he fully disclosed his invention to Mr. Bauer, that he showed him the model and the unassembled parts for the pickup. Eventually, he was assigned to make drawings of a similar pickup for Shure Brothers and models were made of the pickup. One of the scintered ferrite magnetic armatures which he brought with him was used in an early model made at Shure Brothers. He was not advised that Bauer proceeded with a patent application and he is very much upset by the fact that Bauer obtained a patent on what he considers to be his invention.

MEMORANDUM

For

From

-3-

He believes that corroboration of the fact that he disclosed the idea to Bauer and that he also had an assembled model and disassembled parts which were shown to Bauer can be given by a former Shure Brothers employee, namely Elmer V. Carlson. Carlson resides at 207 East School Lane, Prospect Heights, Illinois, Telephone No. EL-3-9469 and is employed at Industrial Research Products, Inc., 321 Bond, Elk Grove Village, Illinois, Telephone No. 439-3600. Carlson left the employ of Shure Brothers in 1957.

Peter Pritchard at ADC was employed by Shure Brothers at the time that Mr. van Leer was there, and he is quite friendly with Peter Pritchard. He does not believe that Pritchard could corroborate his testimony.

Apparently, Mr. van Leer has only recently received a copy of his patent disclosure to Philips. He stated that in March of this year he met with Mr. Shure and gave him a copy of the patent disclosure and complained about the fact that the idea had been appropriated from him. He stated that Mr. Shure was friendly and sympathetic and advised him to be "loyal" to Shure Brothers and that if any of the competitors contacted him about the matter to please promptly advise him (Mr. Shure).

Mr. van Leer's residence address is 1423 North Hudson Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, Telephone No. 312 MI-2-2571. His business address is in care of Hammond Organ Co., 2915 North Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

BR 8-4100

Attached are a copy of the original patent disclosure, plus copies of his correspondence with Shure Brothers and other prospective employees.